

Coyotes

Coyotes are a highly adaptable species and can be found in all 100 counties in North Carolina. They are shy and elusive by nature and their presence alone should not be a cause for concern.

What kind of damage is caused by coyotes? Coyotes have been known to take livestock and small domestic pets.

Can a WCA write a depredation permit? Yes, if property damage has occurred a depredation permit can be issued by a WCA. Coyotes taken under a depredation permit cannot be sold to a licensed fox preserve. A Collarum™ may only be used on coyotes under a depredation permit.

Can coyotes be relocated? No, coyotes cannot be relocated. They must be released on site, euthanized at the capture site, or taken to a facility designed to humanely handle the euthanasia

What can I do with a sick or injured coyote? Coyotes cannot be rehabilitated. Advise individuals to leave the animal alone. A coyote with a life-threatening injury or illness should be humanely euthanized and disposed of in a safe and sanitary manner.

Are there safety concerns? Yes, coyotes are considered a potential vector species for rabies. If someone or his/her pet has been bitten or scratched by a coyote, refer the individual to their county health department. It's good practice to wear gloves while handling any animal.

Non-lethal Options:

- Education
 - See the [General Considerations for Handling Wildlife](#) document for general ways to prevent damage from wildlife.
- Exclusion
 - Fencing can be effective at excluding coyotes. Small livestock and poultry should be placed in a completely enclosed pen with 1-inch chicken wire over a sturdy wooden framework. Electric wire can be added to the enclosure for additional protection.

Lethal Options:

- Coyotes can be hunted year-round with a state hunting license except in Dare, Hyde, Tyrell, Washington and Beaufort counties where a coyote hunting permit is needed. A landowner is not required to purchase a license to hunt on his/her own property.
- Coyotes may be trapped during the regulated trapping season and during any local fox trapping season for that county with a trapping license or if the landowner is trapping on their own property.
- Coyotes in the act of causing property damage may be shot by the landowner without a depredation permit (where permitted by local ordinance).
- If property damage has occurred, coyotes can be taken with a depredation permit.